



## Asen's Experience in Kyoto, Japan!



Nagoya Castle in Nagoya, Japan

*Asen Yellman, a sophomore in Chemical Engineering and Computer Science, participated in the faculty-led VT in Japan program hosted by the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.*

*Visit <http://www.globaleducation.vt.edu/> for more information. The deadline to apply for this summer is February 6, 2017.*

### **What program did you participate in and what did you study?**

I was part of the VT in Japan program during the Summer of 2016. The focus of the study abroad was on language and culture education. Over the course of the month we lived with a host family in Kyoto while attending classes in the mornings and exploring the city and region during the afternoons. Due to the presence of fellow Tech students in most events the experience was not fully immersive, but a lot of learning was imparted through interactions with our families and other natives.

### **How did you learn about this program?**

The Global Education Site's search features made it easy to find programs abroad based on when I wanted to go and what I was interested in studying. I applied for this program after doing a bit of Googling for the details and emailing the instructor.

### **How did this experience affect your future plans?**

Going on this study abroad cemented my desire to travel both during and after college. I've long held exploration and cultural awareness to be a priority. It's worth noting that I'm an engineering student, so global travels are not inherent in my intended career, but I plan to incorporate them as much as I can into my future work.

### **What was your favorite part about studying abroad?**

I thoroughly enjoyed the cultural differences between America and Japan. The quiet coexistence and polite interactions sharply contrasted with the valid stereotypes of Americans. There were also a number of pleasant surprises about day to day life there, like taxes being incorporated into pricing, the lack of tipping, and the prevalence of public transport. As odd as it may sound, I also had thrilling experiences at the grocery stores- the selection of breads, ranging from pineapple flavored to cone shaped sweet bread, was particularly enticing.



### **What was your least favorite thing about studying abroad?**

To give a rather cliché answer: leaving. While there were a few days that were draining, resulting from too little willpower to be attentive to classes or leaden feet from lengthy walks, the whole experience was amazing. I loved living with my host family and enjoying my mum's amazing cooking, commuting home by the subway systems that I now feel a sore lack of in America, exploring the city while getting odd looks from the natives, and even the morning classes. If that answer doesn't suffice, I'll say that walking was a source of some strife on the longer days, but making the treks was always worth it.

### **What was your favorite experience while in Japan?**

Many of our days were scheduled with group adventures to shrines and shopping malls, but for one of the exceptions I went to the neighboring city of Nagoya to see the castle at my host mum's recommendation and enjoy venturing at my leisure. I successfully rode the shinkansen from Kyoto to Nagoya and navigated to the castle gates, but once inside I quickly got lost. Fortunately, another visitor offered assistance and began to escort me. I got the impression that he visits the castle often due to his familiarity with the grounds. He also mentioned American friends and produced a small Colorado keychain. The encounter proved good practice for my Japanese skills since he knew little English, but unfortunately we parted ways after he directed me towards the main keep. Many of the sites the Tech group visited made an effort to maintain their historical appearance, but this castle seemed to take pride in beautiful rebuilt architecture. Throughout the castle there were displays of art, weapons, models, and the city's mascot: golden dolphins. There were five or six floors, and the top gave a beautiful view of the surrounding city. Inevitably, I bought some souvenirs from the shop, including a paper lamp that now hangs above my desk. By the end I was tired and sore-footed, and so it was with joy that I ended my day as I did most: with an amazing home-cooked meal from my host mum.

### **If you had to do the experience all over again, what would you have done differently?**

I came into the study abroad knowing nearly no Japanese because I hadn't studied it formally. In future travels, I intend to come into the country with some more basic communication ability. The benefit of going to a popular city in Japan and moving in a flock of fellow Tech students is that I was generally able to work out what I needed to do. Regardless, I think I could've gotten more out of the experience were I able to carry on a more complex conversation with natives and my host family.

### **Would you recommend studying abroad and do you have advice for students who are looking to go abroad?**

Studying abroad is absolutely incredible. Regardless of your reservations, look into it. Find a program that you like, explore the plentiful scholarship possibilities, and talk to the related faculty. That said, costs and time commitments can be a large barricade to travel. Keep in mind that, while the globe is incredible in scope, America alone is vast enough that you'd struggle to see a full percentage of it. Seeking out opportunities for travel can be as simple as getting in a car and driving elsewhere. [seae](#)



## Plan Your Own Study Abroad And See The World!

Visit <https://www.globaleducation.vt.edu/> and use the Program Search feature to search through all of the international programs available through the Global Education Office. Remember to check for program deadlines and for necessary forms!

OR

Visit [https://www.eng.vt.edu/international/programs/faculty\\_designed\\_programs](https://www.eng.vt.edu/international/programs/faculty_designed_programs) for a list of the different programs within each department of engineering. Keep in mind that you can also take courses abroad to fulfill a minor or to earn language credits!

Asen received a scholarship from SEAC last Spring! Be sure to keep an eye out for our scholarship opportunities in the future to use toward your own international experience!



Visit Peer Advisor, Billy Vician, in the Global Education Office during walk-in hours! Walk-in advising hours are from 11 a.m.—2 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and 9 a.m.—12 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

The Global Education Office is located at 526 Prices Fork Road across the street from Surge and Goodwin Hall.

Billy's there to help you choose the perfect program to fit your budget and schedule.

Billy is a member of University Honors, Corps of Cadets, and the Air Force ROTC programs. He studied abroad at Koc University in Istanbul Turkey.





## Upcoming Scholarship Deadlines

### ScholarTrips 2016 Scholarship

[Deadline: November 10, 2016](#)

<https://alianzglobalassistance.submittable.com/submit/68332/scholartrips-2016>

### VT Global Education Abroad Scholarship

[Deadline: November 13, 2016](#)

[www.globaleducation.vt.edu/?go=VTAbroadScholarships](http://www.globaleducation.vt.edu/?go=VTAbroadScholarships)

### Critical Languages Scholarship

[Deadline: November 16, 2016](#)

<http://www.clscholarship.org/news/2016/cls-2017-application-launches>

### Go Overseas Scholarship

For studying, interning, or volunteering abroad

[Deadline: December 2nd, 2016](#)

[www.gooverseas.com/scholarships](http://www.gooverseas.com/scholarships)

### DAAD RISE Program

[Deadline: January 15, 2017](#)

<https://www.daad.de/rise/en/rise-germany/>

## Apply for Scholarships!

<https://www.eng.vt.edu/international/undgraduate-scholarships>

## Mozaiko Living Learning Community

While living in this community you will:

- Live with students from other countries
- Practice a foreign language
- Take a shared academic course
- Connect with faculty through international dialogue
- Participate in international and cultural events/ programs exclusive to Mozaiko

Learn more about the community at the following information receptions:

- **Monday, November 15, 5:30 PM—7 PM**  
Cranwell Community Room in Harper Hall 1025
- **Friday November 18, 3 PM—5 PM**  
Old Dominion Ballroom in Squires Student Center

RSVP at [https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3ygFu6eMzdOhUVv](https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3ygFu6eMzdOhUVv)

[Apply to the Community by November 28, 2016 for first priority](#)

## Upcoming Program Deadlines

### CS Aquincum Institute of Tech, Budapest

[Deadline: November 11, 2016](#)

[https://www.eng.vt.edu/international/programs/faculty\\_designed\\_programs](https://www.eng.vt.edu/international/programs/faculty_designed_programs)

### MSE International Research Experience

[Deadline: November 15, 2016](#)

[www.tu-darmstadt.de/international/exchangestudents/inbound/usaaustraliacanadanewzealand/irep/index.en.jsp](http://www.tu-darmstadt.de/international/exchangestudents/inbound/usaaustraliacanadanewzealand/irep/index.en.jsp)

### Summer Unit Operations Lab at Ruhr University

[Deadline: November 30, 2016](#)

Contact [martinsm@vt.edu](mailto:martinsm@vt.edu) for more information



**President**

Christine Bodenheimer  
bodiecb@vt.edu

**SEC Representative**

Emily Schaffer

**Graduate GEER Assistant**

Heather Lyne  
engabroad@vt.edu

**Officers**

**Vice President**

Anna Frazer  
afrazer@vt.edu

**Faculty Advisor**

Nicole Sanderlin  
npsander@exchange.vt.



## New U.S. Passport Acceptance Facility!

Student Engagement and Campus Life (SECL) is opening a U.S. Passport Acceptance Facility in Squires Student Center. Trained agents will process all official State Department passport forms as well as offer passport photos.

These services are available to all students, faculty, staff, and community members who are traveling abroad for education, business, internships, competitions, and/or fun.

The grand opening of this one stop shop is **November 7, 2016**.

All services will be provided by appointment only. To make a 30-minute appointment, clients should call (540) 231-9844.

In Spring 2017, SECL hopes to launch a mobile site offering services to departments, athletic teams, and student organizations who may be traveling abroad as a group and have numerous members in need of passports (both new and renewals).

For more information on our new passport acceptance facility, please visit <http://campuslife.vt.edu/Squires/passport-acceptance-facility.html>.

## Lessons From Abroad Conference!

James Madison University is home to the next Lessons from Abroad Virginia—Study Abroad Returnee Conference.

Lessons from Abroad is a conference for students who have recently returned from studying abroad.

The conference is being held **February 4, 2017** in Harrisonburg, VA

**Conference highlights include:**

- Meeting other recent study abroad returnees from all over Virginia
- Hearing from dynamic and motivating keynote speakers
- Learning how to talk about your newly acquired global skills in a job interview
- Discovering how you can work or study abroad after graduation
- Networking with professionals working in
- Internationally-focused jobs